

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 051034Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7599

S E C R E T CAIRO 13444

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, US, EG, IS

SUBJECT: TALK WITH FAHMY ON AMOCO INCIDENT

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY YESTERDAY, I TOLD HIM THAT YOU WILL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS DISCUSS WITH ALLON THE ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST THE AMOCO OPERATIONS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, BUT THAT YOU DO NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME OUT OF THAT MEETING. GOE SHOULD KNOW THAT WE NEED MORE TIME TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. THE FORTY-FIVE DAY DEADLINE, ENDING THE END OF OCTOBER, IS TOO SHORT A PERIOD AND NOT THE BEST TIME FOR US TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS ON THE ISSUE. YOU HAD ASKED ME TO TELL HIM THAT WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THIS MATTER UNTIL AROUND DECEMBER 1. I NOTED THAT GOE HAD NOT PUT ANY OCTOBER 31 DEADLINE INTO ITS PERTINENT LETTER TO AMOCO AND HOPED THAT THIS MEANS THAT GOE RECOGNIZES RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO TAKE SOME TIME.

2. FAHMY WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED, BUT DID NOT DEMUR. HE RECALLED HE HAD TOLD CHARGE MATTHEWS THAT GOE WILL TAKE A GRADUATED SERIES OF RETALIATORY STEPS, BEGINNING WITH SUSPENSION OF JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS (SEE CAIRO 12267, PARA 7). AS FAHMY PUT IT, HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN "INSTRUC-

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TIONS" THAT EGYPTIAN SIDE NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY JC

MEETINGS UNTIL THE ISSUE WAS RESOLVED. (THERE HAS IN FACT
NO JC MEETING SINCE THAT OF MAY 13). I URGED HIM TO DO
NOTHING THAT WILL MAKE OUR TASK MORE DIFFICULT.

3. COMMENT: FAHMY APPARENTLY TOLD MINPET HILAL ABOUT MY
DEMARCHE, SINCE SENIOR GUPCO OFFICIAL, WHOM I SAW LAST
NIGHT, KNEW ABOUT IT. MINPET OFFICIALS SEEMED SOMEWHAT
PUZZLED ABOUT WHAT THEY SHOULD DO IN PRESENT SITUATION.
WHILE FAHMY DID NOT SPECIFICALLY AGREE TO WAIT UNTIL
DECEMBER 1, I THINK THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION ARE
SUCH THAT GOE WILL RECOGNIZE THAT IT HAS NO REAL CHOICE
BUT TO DO SO.
EILTS

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